THE HERALD.

AGRICULTURAL.

Books and Papers on the Farm.

Book farming has often been held up to ridicule. While it is true that farming from a knowledge gained from books, without practical experience, has generally failed of success, it is also true that the best success in farming is never attained without the knowledge which may be gained from books and papers. Practical experience, accurate observation and close reckoning, must go with such knowledge, and the two must go together in order to make the best success. The manufacturer, the merchant, in short the successful man in any business is he who with good judgment gains a knowledge of the operations and experiences of others engaged in the same and similar lines of business, and profits thereby. Such knowledge is chiefly and most readily gained from books and papers.

The successful farmer is the reading one. It is only by reading that he can keep sufficiently posted up with the times, and be prepared to cope with the spirit of the age in which we live. It has been said that "an agricultural community with papers and books adapted to its varied interest, is like a ship at sea without compass or rudder." Everyone who has had an opportunity to observe various portions of our country, must surely have noticed the wide contrast often seen in the condition of communities not very widely separated from each other, and also that the greatest degree of prosperity is always found accompanying the greatest degree of intelligence. In the reading community will always be found more money, better houses, richer lands, better tilled farms, worth more per acre, and in every respect a better social condition than will be found in the community where books and papers are not generally and freely read.

An enterprising, intelligent, reading farmer who settles in a backwood, non-reading community, soon raises the value of his own land and also to an extent the value of his neighbor's land. He attracts the attention of other enterprising farmers to the neighborhood. A farmer can not afford to do without books and papers adapted to his varied interests, more than that, he cannot afford to allow his neighbors to do without them, but should use his influence in all suitable ways for their improvements in this respect, inasmuch as the advancement of the mass is the advancement of the individual.—*St. Louis Journal.*

Farmers who are guilty of letting their farm get poor and hungry, strange as it may seem, hate to be lectured about their carelessness in this particular. Talk to them about collecting material for manure and of building in every field a hill of compost, and they will call your attention to the excellencies of red clover to keep land up.

Those who have been reading the New York Tribune will refer with an air of sure defense to what George Geddes has said in favor of clover as a sort of soil alchemy, in which everything is found which a soil needs to keep it up, and more than keep it up—make it more beautiful. If any sensible man will reflect a moment, if he has an opportunity to read anything about natural phylosophy, or knows anything about what soils are composed of and what crops require for growth and maturing of seed, he will conclude that no one plant contains all the desirable elements of the various crops. The notion (it is nothing more) that clover will advance the general agriculture of a country is the exact counterpart of what was entertained by English farmers in some parts of the kingdom over a hundred years ago, and some farmers became clover-sick; that is, would not produce that plant any longer. Those who clover their farms constantly here will share the same fate by and by.

To Prevent a Cow Sucking Herself.

The Toronto Globe says: A sort of yoke worn on the neck to prevent the cow getting her head round sufficiently to accomplish her purpose will answer. The yoke is made as follows: Make six bars of the requisite length, to extend from the head to the shoulder. Bore two holes in each, close to the respective ends. Carry a rope through the holes at the anterior ends, by which to tie it round the neck; have the bars kept at appropriate distances from each other by knots on the rope. If properly adjusted, this will put a stop to the sucking.

Orchard Management.

To realize the best fruits from an orchard, we should be careful in the selections of varieties; and a well-drained location should be chosen on which to plant the trees. The distance between the rows should not be so small as to preclude the trees from obtaining their full bearing capacity, and to make it difficult to gather the fruit. Neither should there be too much space. Twenty-four feet each way has been our practice of setting trees, and we find it a suitable distance. If the land is low and flat, the land between the rows should be plowed toward the trees, so as to have the dead furrow in the center, to allow the water to pass off freely. All the sprouts should be kept from the base of the trees, but we have not found it advisable to prune out the heads, as it lessens the capacity for fruitfulness and induces the growth of water sprouts.

All of the fallen fruit should be gathered and made into vinegar, as the profits of the orchard are considerably increased from this source. All fruit should be carefully hand-picked; and that intended for market should be assorted and put in clean packages. The commission men of Chicago assure us that apples in new barrels bring enough more to pay for the barrels, even if old ones could be had free of cost. Varieties that drop from trees, such as Rome Beauty, Standard and Domine, should be picked early. Winter fruit should be kept in a cool place, at a temperature of 49 degrees as near as possible.

The demand for winter apples has not yet been supplied, and if we wish to obtain the best results and find a ready market for our apples, we should plant at least three-forths of our orchards in winter varieties.

The orchard should be sheltered on the west and north by belts of rapid growing trees of every desirable variety. We advise the planting of white ash, American elm, sycamore, and ashleaf maple. Varieties of the willow are rapid growers, but the timber is of little value.—[*Ex.*

One Crop Plan of Farming.

We are more firmly fixed in our opinion each year, that our farmers will never experience anything of prosperity as long as they adhere to one crop plan of farming. Between three and four hundred dollars is the very best that can be realized from the labor of a hand in a tobacco crop, and from that down to about nothing some years. There is no reason why our farmers should not change their tactics and adopt a system of diversified crops. All experience everywhere points to that as the only successful way of farming. The people down South have seen the folly of the one crop system, and are now raising their own grain, and it will not be long until they will be entirely independent. They will not rely on all cotton any more. The sooner the farmers of our county see the error of their way and raise less tobacco and more grain, grass, and stock, the better it will be for them, and the prosperity of the country. We have but little hope of a change on the part of a great many of our farmers who have raised tobacco so long that they imagine there is no money in anything else. There are others, however, of whom we may reasonably expect better things. These combined with the new comers into our midst may work a revolution in the early future; at least, we shall hope for its accomplishment. We don't think that two to three hundred dollars a year is enough to pay for the wear and tear of a man's self, his land and his stock, and we hope the day is not far distant when the farmers will be of the same opinion.—*Owensboro Examiner.*

Of all the dreary places, deliver us from the dreary farm houses, which so many people call home. Bars for a front gate; chickens wallowing before the door; pig-pens elbowing the house in the rear; scraggy trees never cared for, or no trees at all; no cherry shrubs; no neatness; no trimness. And yet, a lawn, and trees, and a neat walk, and a pleasant fence around it, don't cost a great deal. They can be secured by little, at odd times, and the expense hardly felt. And if the time comes when it is best to sell the farm, fifty dollars so invested, will often bring back five hundred. For a man is a brute, who will not insensibly yield to a higher price for such a farm, when he thinks of the pleasant surroundings it offers to his wife and children. Farmers, beautify and adorn your farms; set out orchards, shrubbery, shade trees; lay off lawns; build good fences; put up good gates, and paint or whitewash your outhouses and fences.

More stock perish from famine than founder.

How To Keep Sweet Potatoes.

Mr. Henry Whitehall, of the New York Farmer's Club, said at a recent meeting:

"If you have a large lot of potatoes to preserve, get a sufficient number of old flour barrels or boxes, and fill them with the potatoes, fresh from the patch. Put them in a room over your kitchen or where a constant fire is kept up. Have a stove-drum in or a stove-pipe passing through the room where the potatoes are stored, if possible to keep it warm and dry. Place the barrels or boxes one on top of the other as high as the ceiling, two in a row, so that it will be convenient to get to them. Take the potatoes you send to market out of the bottom barrels first, and do not disturb the upper barrels, for I have found in my experience that those packed in the lower tiers rot before those in the upper."

Dr. Trimble, of New Jersey, read an article from an agricultural paper on the subject of which the following is a condensation:

"If the tubers are sound and mature they may be kept through the winter with proper care. They should be thoroughly dried before storing. If packed away wet or with skins moist, decay is certain, and in a short time. If a dry, warm room is available, very little packing will be required. A layer of dry leaves in the bottom of the barrel, and then a layer of potatoes and so on until the barrel is full, will be sufficient. If the potatoes are to be stored in a cellar, however dry or warm, it is seldom safe to risk the tubers in anything but kiln-dried sand. They should be carefully packed in barrels, then the dry sand poured on until all the interstices are filled up. The barrels should also be elevated a few inches from the bottom of the cellar in order to prevent any dampness from entering in that direction. Chaff or cut straw will answer as well as leaves for packing, but aside from keeping dry and warm, the main thing is to secure good, well ripened tubers to begin with. The largest and best matured specimens should be selected before packing, for seed, and it is always well to keep them separated from the main crop.

Hold or Sell Crops.

It requires much intelligence and sound judgment for farmers to tell when to hold and when to sell their crops. Some years it is best to sell as soon as gathered; while it pays better other years to hold for the last market. After keeping themselves thoroughly posted in all such markets, then the farmers have to be governed by circumstances, growing out of each one's own peculiar condition. If he is poor and in debt, it will be best to sell at once, and not wait for a rise in prices, for debts are poor things to hang around a poor man's neck, and the sooner they are paid the better. We have heretofore advised farmers to sell whenever prices are remunerative; and never sell at prices that don't pay the cost of production. This presupposes that farmers study and understand their business so as to be posted on the cost, or profit or loss of each product. Keep an accurate account of each field, and then you will be able to know exactly whether you make or lose on each product; to know which to drop as unprofitable, and what to continue as paying crops.

Hens in Place of Dogs.

There is hardly a family that does not throw away enough table scraps to feed at least half a dozen hens, and many that keep a nuisance in the shape of a dog, that does no good, but costs more than a dozen good hens, complain that they cannot afford to keep hens. One dog in a neighborhood is generally more trouble to the neighborhood than a flock of hens would be, for if hens are well fed at home they will rarely go away. But who ever saw a dog that was not a pest, running across a newly made garden, and sticking his nose into everything. Kill the curs and give the food to the hens, and you will find a pleasure in so doing. We wish there was a tax of one hundred dollars on every dog in the country. Those that are of value as watch dogs could be retained, while hosts of snarling dirty curs would give place to some more useful and less troublesome pets.—*Poultry Journal.*

Corn Planted.

To make the replanted corn come up quick, soak the seed in a solution of cloride of lime and copperas. If a whole field is planted late make a solution of one pound of each. That quantity will answer for fifteen or twenty acres and the expense will be trifling. Seed soaked in warm water will promote the germination, but not so speedily as the above.

It is said that lightning never strikes twice in the same place, and a man who has been hit fairly by it once, may rest easy ever after.